Referring now to FIGURE 2, wherein the use of one embodiment of my invention is illustrated, FIGURE 2 illustrates, for purposes of convenience, the gum tissue ridge 22 formed on the bottom of the mouth of an edentulous patient, or user. First, the massaging pad 6 may be filled with a medicament, which may be a powder or liquid which is desired to be applied to the gum tissue. The medicament may be inserted by any method, and if a liquid by dipping the massaging pad 6 into the liquid, or pouring the liquid over the massaging pad 6, or any other means which is appropriate to the circumstances. If the medicament is a powder, it may be poured onto the massaging pad 6. The massaging pad 6 is then inserted into the mouth of the user, and is under the control of the manipulating handle 4. The groove 8 of the massaging pad 6 is placed over and upon the upper ridge 24 of the gum tissue ridge 26. Downward pressure is then applied by the user through the manipulating handle 4 and the massaging pad 6 is moved over either slope of the gum ridge 26 so that the surfaces of massaging pad 6 forming the groove 8 lie adjacent to and resiliently positioned with respect to the opposite slopes of the gum tissue ridge 26.

At this time, any liquid medicaments which have been stored in the reservoir of the massaging pad 6 will flow onto the gum tissue 26, due to portions of the massaging pad 6 being compressed.

From FIGURE 2, it is obvious that the depth of the groove 8 must be such that the gum tissue ridge 26 is substantially surrounded by the massaging pad 6. It should be apparent now that the width of the massaging pad 6 must be sufficient to offer enough resistance so that the walls forming the groove 8 of the massaging pad 6 will resiliently ride upon the slopes forming the gum tissue ridge 26.

The gum ridge 26 is cleansed and massaged by pulling the massaging pad 6 back and forth over ridge 26. By this procedure, medicaments are expelled from the massaging pad 6 and also the massaging pad 6 strokes opposite sides of the gum tissue ridge 26, increasing the circulation in the gum tissue and without undue heat or abrasion. The walls forming the groove 8 of pad 6 will not merely slide over the slopes on opposite sides of the gum ridge, but will randomly adhere to portions of the slopes of the gum ridge, resulting in a caterpillar type movement, thus providing the gentle stroking action and its beneficial effects. The massaging pad 6 must therefore be formed of a soft foam which is highly resilient in order to perform the aforementioned functions.

Also, since polyurethane foam is utilized in the preferred embodiment of my invention, the medicament applied to the gum tissue will be dispensed in a relatively uncontaminated form, and also since the toughness of polyurethane is higher than other materials capable of retaining a liquid, the massaging pad 6 can be expected to have a long life.

The massaging pad 6 has provided satisfactory results when the overall dimensions have been 1⅜-inches in length by ¾-inch in width and by ½-inch in height, with the width dimension corresponding to "W" in FIGURE 1. Also the softness or resiliency of the polyurethane foam should be of the same order as that of a foam which would be used to apply powder to the face.

What has been disclosed is what is believed to be the best embodiment of the inventive concept, and the applicant is entitled to not only the specific structure illustrated expressing that concept, but the entire structural concept conveyed to a person skilled in the art.

What is claimed is:

1. For use in cleaning and massaging the gum tissue ridge of an edentulous mouth, a gum massager comprising a manipulating handle, a pad of resilient absorbent material having a first surface thereof secured to one end of said manipulating handle, said pad of resilient absorbent material being of a thickness substantially that of the height of said gum tissue ridge, said pad having a longitudinally extending groove formed in the exposed surface thereof, the walls of said groove normally extending into approximately abutting relationship, said groove being of a depth approximating the thickness of said pad whereby both slopes forming said gum tissue ridges have positioned adjacent thereto a portion of said walls of resilient absorbent material forming said groove.

2. For use in cleaning and massaging the gum tissue ridge of an edentulous mouth, a gum massager comprising a manipulating handle, an elongated pad of resilient foam material having a first surface thereof secured to one end of said manipulating handle, said pad of resilient foam material being of a thickness substantially that of the height of said gum tissue ridge, said pad having a longitudinally extending groove formed in the exposed surface thereof, the walls of said groove extending into approximately abutting relationship, a pair of secondary grooves formed in the exposed surface of said pad and straddling said first mentioned groove, said first mentioned groove being of a depth approximating the thickness of said pad whereby both slopes forming said gum tissue ridge have positioned adjacent thereto a portion of said walls of resiilent foam material forming said first mentioned groove.

3. The gum massager of claim 2 further characterized in that said secondary grooves are of a depth substantially less than the depth of said first mentioned groove.

4. For use in cleaning and massaging the gum tissue ridge of an edentulous mouth, a gum massager comprising a manipulating handle, a pad of resilient foam material secured to one end of said manipulating handle, said pad being capable of retaining a reservoir of liquid, said pad of resilient foam material being of a thickness substantially that of the height of said gum tissue ridge, a longitudinally extending groove formed in the surface of said pad opposite said first mentioned surface, the walls of said groove extending into approximately abutting relationship, a second and third groove symmetrically positioned with respect to said first mentioned groove, the depth of said first mentioned groove approximating the thickness of said pad but being slightly less than the thickness thereof whereby both slopes forming the ridge of said gum tissue ridge have positioned adjacent thereto, over a substantial area thereof, portions of the resilient foam material forming said walls of said first mentioned groove of resilient foam material when in use, the depth of each of said second and third grooves being substantially less than the depth of said first mentioned groove.

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